

73-78c1/

16 JAN 1974

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I read your letter of 26 December with interest and after reviewing the Agency alcoholism program, I want to respond to several specific points that you made and to your contract proposal.

I agree with you that this Agency, like others in the Government, has employees who have alcoholic problems. Agency management considers alcoholism an illness which is susceptible to treatment if, as in any disease, the patient is willing to submit to treatment. I am also in agreement that recovered alcoholics are valuable as participants and advisors in the rehabilitation program. I recognize too that we are just beginning to understand how to cope with the alcoholic problem and that there is a need for a continuing review and improvement effort in what we are doing.

I have considered your proposal that you be placed on a six-month contract with the Office of Medical Services to provide assistance based on your knowledge and experiences in the AA program. Regretfully, the Agency cannot offer you such a contract. As you know, we made a major reduction in our work force last year. A similar reduction will take place this year and perhaps for the next few years. Under these circumstances hiring is greatly restricted and specialized. Because we now have employees who are recovered alcoholics helping us in the rehabilitation program, I cannot justify hiring you on a contract basis at a time when we are asking employees to take early retirement or resign to meet our manpower reduction requirements. Nevertheless, I thank you for what you have done for us in our rehabilitation efforts in the past and wish you continued health and success in the future.

OIG:TWHolmes:ydc (14 Jan 74)

Sincerely,

Distribution:

/s/ W. E. Colby

Original - Addressee

1 - DCI

✓ 1 - ER

1 - IG Subject

W. E. Colby  
Director

ILLEGIB

1 - TWH Chrono (w/h)